



City of Cornelia

Fire Department

Chief
Billy Joe
Jenkins, Jr.

November 5, 2024

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To Whom It May Concern:

On Thursday, October 24th an ordinary day turned tragic. Cornelia Fire Department Incident #24-1358. While in the bay at Station 22 with HCES Lt Matt Ruark, Lt Randi Seabolt and several HCES recruits waiting for a funeral procession to come into the city - radio traffic for Station 22 asked for contact by telephone. Upon not hearing the crew answer, I called E911. The operator advised there was a male subject in the parking lot behind the station that needed a welfare check. In the process of walking to the parking lot area, it was discovered and advised by the operator that the subject had a gun in the vehicle.

As this knowledge was received, eye contact was made with the subject and all persons progressing toward the vehicle turned to retreat to the bay area. I looked back toward the vehicle and the subject had exited the vehicle and was walking toward us with gun in his right hand. Unfortunately, he ended his life and we are blessed he didn't take the chance to take anyone else's.

Had it not been for the quick thinking and notification by the E911 operator, the subject could have easily surprised us and entered the bay area where we were totally unaware.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the E911 operators involved in this incident. They all very well could have saved numerous lives that day.

With all sincere thanks,

Billy Joe Jenkins, Jr
Fire Chief, Cornelia Fire Dept.

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